

### AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A method comprising  
  
receiving a request [[to perform]] for a service transaction involving a plurality of service providers at a network transaction portal;  
  
[[performing]] controlling the transaction from the network transaction portal by remotely executing methods associated with the transaction including routing to a plurality of distributed networked [[software]] objects containing methods associated with the transaction via at least one link through a common network application functionally interposed between a client network access device and the plurality of networked [[software]] objects that controls the transaction.
2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein [[performing]] controlling the transaction includes communicating with a virtual information store via a network protocol to determine a network address for a networked [[software]] object.
3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein [[performing]] controlling the transaction includes using a stub object to enable remote execution of a method of a corresponding skeleton object that is associated with the transaction.
4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3, wherein using the stub object includes using the stub object to interact with a networked [[software]] object of a first service provider and a networked [[software]] object of a second service provider.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3, [[wherein]] further comprising creating the stub object [[is created]] in real-time using a meta compiler and [[transmitted]] transmitting the stub object to the network transaction portal [[hub]].
6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein [[performing]] controlling the transaction includes [[performing]] controlling an N-way interactive transaction among an integer plurality N of service providers.
7. (Currently Amended) A machine-readable medium having stored thereon data representing sequences of instructions that when executed cause a machine to:  
  
receive a request [[to perform]] for a service transaction involving a plurality of service providers at a network transaction portal; and  
  
[[perform]] control the transaction from the network transaction portal by remotely executing methods associated with the transaction including routing to a plurality of distributed networked [[software]] objects containing methods associated with the transaction via at least one link through a common network application functionally interposed between a client network access device and the plurality of networked [[software]] objects that controls the transaction.
8. (Currently Amended) The machine-readable medium of claim 7, wherein the instructions to [[perform]] control the transaction further comprise instructions causing the machine to communicate with a virtual information store via a network protocol to determine a network address for a networked [[software]] object.
9. (Currently Amended) The machine-readable medium of claim 8, wherein the instructions to [[perform]] control further comprise instructions causing the machine to use a stub

object to enable remote execution of a method of a corresponding skeleton object that is associated with the transaction.

10. (Currently Amended) The machine-readable medium of claim 7, wherein the instructions to [[perform]] control further comprise instructions causing the machine to [[perform]] control an N-way interactive transaction among an integer plurality N of service providers.

11. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

receiving a request at a network transaction portal [[to perform]] for a transaction on a service network from a client access device, the service network including a first service provider and a second service provider;

registering with an object router that routes to remote networked [[software]] objects associated with the transaction;

creating controlled links between the client access device and a plurality of nodes each having [[a software]] an object associated with the transaction via [[a common hub]] the network transaction portal that is functionally interposed between the client access device and the plurality of nodes by routing to the [[software]] object of each node;

remotely executing methods associated with each [[software]] object; and

receiving transaction results.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11, wherein creating controlled links includes using an application-accessible virtual information store that contains an object identification and a network address assigned to each [[software]] object to determine the network address of each [[software]] object and route to the network address.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[11]] 12, wherein using the application-accessible virtual information store includes using a distributed on-line service information base (DOLSIB).
14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11, [[wherein]] further comprising accessing the networked [[software]] object at the obtained network address.
15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11, wherein [[wherein]] remotely executing includes using a stub object that allows remote execution of a method of a corresponding skeleton object that is the [[software]] object at the node.
16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11, further comprising returning the transaction results to the client access device via the network transaction portal [[hub]].
17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11, wherein executing includes executing a transaction involving a plurality of distributed networked [[software]] objects associated with service methods of each of a plurality of service providers by routing to each of the plurality of distributed networked [[software]] objects via a common network application at the network transaction portal that controls the transaction.
18. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:  
  
an interface of a network transaction portal to a client network access device to receive a request [[to perform]] for a transaction from the access device; and  
  
a transactional application of the network transaction portal corresponding to the transaction, the transactional application functionally interposed between the client network access device and a plurality of service providers corresponding to the transaction to control access to and remote execution of methods associated with [[the software]] networked objects associated with the service providers.

Docket No: 002435.P002X  
Application No. 09/863,704

19. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 18, wherein the transactional application includes a router to [[route]] use a DOLSIB to route to a plurality of distributed networked [[software]] objects each having a method associated with the transaction.
20. (Previously presented) The system of claim 18, further comprising a switch in an application layer of a layered network communications model to switch to the transactional application after receiving the request.
21. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 18, further comprising a remote [[software]] object associated with the transaction functionally interposed between the network [[application]] transaction portal and an enterprise computer system of a service provider participant to interface with the enterprise computer system and utilize data of the enterprise computer system in a method.
22. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 18, wherein the networked objects comprise a plurality of geographically distributed [[software]] objects including [[are]] object-oriented software objects.
23. (Currently Amended) The system of claim [[18]] 22, further comprising a stub object corresponding to the one of the plurality of geographically distributed [[software]] objects to allow remote access to the one of the plurality of geographically distributed [[software]] objects.
24. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:  
  
a server to store software and to execute software instructions; and  
  
network transaction portal [[hub]] means to control a service involving a plurality of service providers by controllably routing to a plurality of [[software]] objects associated with the plurality of service providers.

Docket No: 002435.P002X  
Application No. 09/863,704

25. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 24, wherein the network transaction portal ~~[[hub]]~~ means includes a network application and wherein the network transaction portal ~~[[hub]]~~ means is a network transaction portal ~~[[hub]]~~ means to route via a at least one controlled link through ~~[[the]]~~ a common network application.
26. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein each object comprises an extended finite state machine, and further comprising transition a state of an object.
27. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein controlling the transaction comprises controlling and managing cooperation and interaction among the service providers including selectively routing to and involving the service providers in the transaction.